THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) While LPG distributors are under instructions to supply refills within 24 hours of the booking, supplies are at times made with delay for reasons like transportation bottlenecks, labour problems, civil disturbances etc.

(c) and (d) Supply of LPG refills by M|s. Prem Nath Motors, New Delhi is normal at present; however, in the recent past the distributors had some backlog due to labour problem, traffic restrictions, strike by lorry owners etc.

Thermal Power Projects

96. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of thermal power projects cleared State-wise by Central Government during the last three years, what are the details about the capacity generation, amount investment and whether all are in public sector or any one in private sector;

(b) the number of the above sanctioned projects which are gas based and coal based separately and the quantity of gas and coal allotted to them;

(c) what is the all India average cost per unit production of thermal and hydro electric power and whether there are any plans to bring down the cost per unit;

(d) what are the factors responsible for transmission loss and whether theft is one of the vital factors; and

(e) what is the latest available plant load factor percentage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) The desired information relating to the thermal power projects approved by Government during the last three years is given in the Statement annexed. [*See* Appendix CXLII, Annexure No. 3]

(c) The All India average cost, per unit of production of thermal and hydro-electric power for the year 1984-85, in respect of 15 major State Electricity Boards, is 46.98 paise and 8.14 paise respectively. Guidelines have been issued to the State Electricity Boards for improving operational efficiency and productivity. A comprehensive renovation and modernisation programme has been sanctioned to cover 34 thermal stations with a Central outlay of Rs. 500 crores. This is expected to result in additional generation and reduction in consupmption of coal and oil. A Committee has also been set up to make recommendations on formulation of a programme for renovation and modernization of hydro-electric power stations.

(d) The factors responsible for transmission and distribution losses include technical aspects, defective metres, theft and pilferage of energy.

(e) The All India plant load factor of thermal power stations in the country for the year 1986-87 is 53.2 per cent.

Contract by Neyveli Lignite Corporation

97. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited has paid huge amount of advance sums towards the deal with M|s. M.A.N. of West Germany and WMI during the current year 1987;

(b) if so, what are the details of amounts remitted to West Germany;

(c) what is the nature of guarantee provided to NLC by the said firm in West Germany; and

(d) what are the details of the contract between the Parties?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Only 10 per cent of the contract amount has been paid to M|s MAN and W.M.I. as provided in the respective contracts during 1986-87. The advance paid to M|s MAN amounts to DM 5.015 Million.

(c) The advance has been paid against bank guarantee for equivalent amount.

(d) The contract is for the design engineering manufacture, supply, erection, supervision, testing and commissioning of 2 No. of 20,000 T|Hr. Speaders. The Indian supplies are to be made by WMI, Bombay and design engineering and imported supplies by M|s MAN of West Germany.

Second mine expansion project of NLC

98. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no progress has been achieved during the last eight months in the execution of second mine expansion project of Neyveli Lignite Corporation;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being contemplated to acquire only approved equipments as suggested by Technical Consultants of Neyveli Lignite Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) While finalising purchase proposals the suggestions of Technical Consultants have been taken into consideration. Before commencement of manufacture of components, the drawings are being checked and approved by NLC along with the Consultant.

Power Unit Managements

99. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the power units in the country are badly managed due to which there is steep shortfall in the production of power in the country; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to manage the existing power units effectively and to boost the production of power in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) During 1986-87, total power generation in the country was only 1.3 per cent less than the target mainly due to less hydel generation on account of low reservoir levels. The thermal generation was more than the target. There are some stations where there has been a shortfall in production *vis-a-vis* the target. However, management is only one of the factors on which the production of power at a station depends along with various other factors such as age of equipment, quality of equipment, availability of trained personnel and coal quality.

(b) For increasing the generation from the existing power units, various steps have been taken which include implementation of a centrally sponsored renovation and modernisation programme of some existing thermal power stations, training of operation and maintenance personnel, improvement in coal quality, issuing various guidelines to the State Authorities for introducing modern methods and techniques for maintenance and management of power stations. Need for expeditious completion of on-going projects is also being constantly emphasised on the State Authorities.